

Appl. No. 10/039,232
Amdt. dated 9/2/04
Reply to Office Action of 6/7/04

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the US Patent and Trademark Office Action dated 7-Jun-04. Claims 1-45, all the claims, as filed stand rejected under 35USC112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-22, 31-36, 40-42 and 25 [sic 44?]45 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) as unpatentable over USP 6,051,335 ("335") in view of USP 4,999,149 ("149"). Claims 23-24 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) as unpatentable over the same combination of references taken with USP 3,852,224 ("224"). Claims 25-27, 29, 30, 37-39 and 43-45 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) as unpatentable over '335 and '149 taken with USP 4,753,649 ("649"). Claim 28 has been indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection based on 35USC112 and to include limitations of any intervening claims. By the foregoing amendments, applicants' claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim their invention. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and the argument below is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection based on 35USC112, second paragraph, the above amendment is believed to remove any question of indefiniteness. As amended, the claims now call for a regenerated cellulose coating consistent with the understanding on which the claims were examined.

With respect to the rejections based on 35USC103(a), the limitation of original claim 15 specifying water as the rinse to regenerate the cellulose has been inserted into claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the applied references, taken singly or in combination fail to teach, in the sense of 35USC103(a), using a water rinse to regenerate a cellulose coating. Specifically, '335 describes a coagulation process that is essential to produce an insoluble coating for battery separators. In essence, an "aquarium" is used containing a coagulation agent (col. 12, li. 32+). Further, it is noted that '335 uses at least 20% addition (col. 8, li. 46) whereas the present invention can use additions at the 0.5-1.5% cellulose addition level. Clearly, one of ordinary skill following the teachings of '335 would not find the way to the coated article of claim 1 and claims dependent thereon obvious in the sense of 35USC103(a). Similarly, '149 teaches a coagulation process using solvent spinning into a organic solvent coagulating bath and only washes the remaining solvent off with water after coagulation. Therefore, combining the teaching adds little to render the presently claimed invention obvious in the sense of 35USC103(a). Finally, the addition of '224 and '649 applied to claims 23,24, 25-30, 37-39, and 43-45 as allegedly suggesting additional limitations motivated by expectation of desired results is traversed for the same reasons. These references fail to provide teachings lacking in the primary reference(s) and, therefore, do not render obvious, in the sense of 35USC103(a), claim 1, particularly

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as amended.

Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 16-45 and this application are believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

The undersigned may be reached at 770-587-8096.

Respectfully submitted,

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